

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 IO-13 MCT-01

FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SIL-01

LAB-04 CU-02 /145 W

----- 095736

R 152224Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5205

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USCINSCO QUARRY HEIGHTS

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ASEC, ENRG, EAIR, ELAB, SCUL, SOPN, XL,

TD, BB, VE, CU, SW, NI

SUBJECT: THIS WEEK IN VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 12086 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT SEIZED

ORLANDO BOSCH AND SEVERAL CUBAN EXILES APPEAR

LINKED TO THE CUBAN AIR CRASH OFF BARBADOS

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OCTOBER 6. IN THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD)

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' RACE, BOTH AD CONGRESSIONAL LEADER JAIME LUSINCHI AND PARTY VEEP LEANDRO MORA MADE STATEMENTS INDICATING THEY HAVE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE PILOT'S STRIKE, THE GOV HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY DECIDED WHETHER SOME PILOTS WILL BE FIRED. MINISTER OF FINANCE HECTOR HURTADO PREDICTS NEXT OPEC PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASE WILL NOT BE LESS THAN 15 PERCENT. SPANISH MONARCHS STOP IN CARACAS ON THE WAY TUME. THE CARACAS PRESS HIGHLIGHTS THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG. END SUMMARY.

1. VENEZUELAN SEIZE ORLANDO BOSCH AS CUBAN EXILES IN VENEZUELA APPEAR LINKED TO CUBANA AIR CRASH. OCTOBER 14, VENEZUELAN POLICE AUTHORITIES DETAINED ORLANDO BOSCH, A CUBAN EXILE FIGURE ASSOCIATED WITH MANY TERRORIST ACTS COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF ANTI-COMMUNISM, TOGETHER WITH FOUR VENEZUELAN AND AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF CUBANS AS POSSIBLE SUSPECTS IN THE CUBANA CRASH (CARACAS 12253). BOSCH'S SEIZURE CLIMAXED A WEEK OF INTENSE PRESS ATTENTION WHICH PROGRESSIVELY REVEALED A CONSIDERABLE VENEZUELAN CONNECTION TO THE CUBANA CRASH. SOON AFTER THE CRASH, PRESIDENT PEREZ SENT AN EMOTIONAL MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO CASTRO (OCT 8), OFFERING ALL ASSISTANCE TO CATCH THE CULPRITS (CARACAS 12157). ON OCTOBER 12, THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN RELATIONS ISSUED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, NOTING THAT TWO VENEZUELAN WERE BEING HELD BY TRINIDADIAN AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CRASH, AND THAT VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES ARE CARRYING OUT A FULL INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CRASH AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA. THIS COMMUNIQUE SET THE STAGE FOR THE DRAMATIC SEIZURE OF BOSCH AND OTHERS. ONE OF THE OTHER SUSPECTS NOW IN CUSTODY IS A FORMER SENIOR OFFICIAL OF DISIP (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE). IF BOSCH AND COMPANY ARE INVOLVED, THE GOV WILL FIND ITSELF IN THE EMBARRASING POSITION OF HAVING TO ADMIT THAT CUBAN EXILES AND THEIR COLLEAGUES (INCLUDING A FORMER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOV INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL) MAY WELL HAVE OPERATED FROM VENEZUELA IN BOMBING THE CUBAN PLANE. THE FACT THAT SEVERAL OF THOSE ARRESTED ARE CUBAN-BORN ALSO POINTS UP THE DEGREE OF CUBAN EXILE INVOLVEMENT IN, AND ACCEPTANCE BY, VENEZUELAN SOCIETY.

2. AD PRESIDENTIAL RACE - PINERUA ORDAZ IS NOT ALONE. PRIOR TO THE RETURN OCTOBER 14 TO

CARACAS OF AD PRESIDENT GONZALO BARRIOS FROM A TRIP TO EUROPE, BOTH AD SENATOR AND PARTY VICE PRESIDENT REINALDO LENADTRO MORA AND AD CONGRESSIONAL CHIEF JAIME LUSINCHI MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS. LUSINCHI SAID THAT HE IS NOT A CANDIDATE AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT THAT HE COULD CERTAINLY BECOME ONE, NOTING THAT HE WOULD FEEL HIGHLY HONORED IF PRESIDENT PEREZ CONSIDERED HIM QUALIFIED TO TRY FOR THE CANDIDACY, ADDING FURTHER THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD THAT FORMER PRESIDENT BETANCOURT AND SECRETARY GENERAL GONZALO BARRIOS SUPPORT PINERUA ORDAZ' CANDIDACY. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, SENATOR LEANDRO MORA SAID IT IS PREMATURE FOR HIM TO CONSIDER A PRESIDENTIAL RACE, BUT, OF COURSE, "IT WOULD NOT BE STRANGE THAT I COULD BECOME A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE." BARRIOS UPON HIS RETURN TO VENEZUELA, WHILE ALLUDING TO THE PASSING OF THE REINS TO A NEW GENERATION, FOXILY DID NOT EXPLICITLY EXCLUDE HIS OWN CANDIDACY. HE SAID HE WAS NEUTRAL IN REGARD TO SPECIFIC CANDIDATES, BUT RECOGNIZES THE MERITS OF PINERUA ORDAZ, LUSINCHI AND LEANDRO MORA AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES. THE PROLIFERATION OF ANNOUNCED PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS AT THIS TIME IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF AD HAS YET TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION THAT PINERUA ORDAZ IS TO BE THE CANDIDATE. GONZALO BARRIOS, TOGETHER WITH FORMER PRESIDENT BETANCOURT, WILL HAVE A VERY LARGE VOICE IN DECIDING WHOM AD CHOOSES TO RUN AS CAP'S SUCCESSOR.

3. AFTERMATH OF PILOT'S STRIKE--NO DECISION YET ON WHETHER SOME PILOTS WILL BE FIRED. ON OCTOBER 14, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIALLY BEGAN A THREE DAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVALUATION OF THE JUSTIFICATIONS (FOR FIRING CERTAIN PILOTS)  
PRESENTED BY THREE VENEZUELAN AIRLINES (VIASA, AVENSA,  
AND AEROPOSTAL) WHICH WERE STRUCK LAST MONTH BY THEIR  
PILOTS. ACCORDING TO LABOR INSPECTOR JULIO CESAR  
BORGES, ONLY VISA PILOTS PRESENTED DOCUMENTATION  
JUSTIFYING THEIR POSITION TO THE MINISTRY DURING THE  
LEGAL TIME PERIOD WHICH ENDED OCTOBER 13. NEITHER  
AVENSA OR AEROPOSTAL PILOTS DID SO. BORGES SAID THAT  
THE MINISTRY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBLE  
TERMINATION OF FIVE AVENSA AND FIVE AEROPOSTAL  
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PILOTS, AND SEVEN VIASA PILOTS. HOWEVER, A LAWYER  
FOR THE VIASA PILOTS MAINTAINED THAT VIASA NEVER  
CEASED FUNCTIONING AND THEREFORE IT IS A CONTRADICTION  
FOR VIASA MANAGEMENT TO SEEK THE DISMISSAL OF  
SOME OF ITS PILOTS. THE FACT THAT THE AEROPOSTAL AND  
AVENSA PILOTS HAVE REFUSED TO FOLLOW LABOR MINISTRY  
REGULATIONS IS A CONTINUING INDICATION OF THE BITTERNESS  
THE STRIKE ENGENDERED AMONG THE STRIKE LEADERS OF  
THESE TWO AIRLINES. IN A SEPARATE BUT RELATED DE-

VELOPMENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN PILOTS' ASSOCIATION ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOV FOR ITS FAILURE TO IMPROVE ANY NAVIGATIONAL AIDS SINCE THE END OF THE STRIKE.

4. MINISTRY OF FINANCE SPECULATES ON OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE. MINISTER OF FINANCE HECTOR HURTADO WAS QUOTED BY THE CARACAS PRESS ON OCTOBER 15 AS PREDICTING THAT "THE NEXT INCREASE IN PETROLEUM PRICES WILL NOT BE LESS THAN 15 PERCENT". THE MINISTER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDED THAT THE PRICE INCREASE WOULD NOT EXCEED 20 PERCENT AND THAT THERE IS A CONSENSUS IN OPEC ON THE PRICE QUESTION. HURTADO'S COMMENTS WERE MADE DURING A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH DR. A. E. EKUKINAM, MINISTER OF FINANCE OF NIGERIA, WHO IS HEADING AN ECONOMIC MISSION TO VENEZUELA. EKUKINAM WAS MUCH MORE RESERVED IN HIS COMMENTS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT AN OPEC PRICE INCREASE, HE SAID ANY PRICE INCREASE PROPOSED BY OPEC WOULD BE A MATTER OF CONSENSUS, AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF POINTS OF VIEW. HURTADO'S FRANK COMMENT ON AN OPEC PRICE RISE WAS SURPRISING, CONSIDERING THAT VALENTIN HERNANDEZ, MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS, IS THE NORMAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOV ON THIS SUBJECT. HERNANDEZ HAS CUSTOMARILY BEEN MUCH MORE RESERVED IN STATING VENEZUELA'S VIEWS ON FUTURE PRICE INCREASES AND HAS USUALLY AVOIDED MAKING FLAT PREDICTIONS. HURTADO'S BOLD STATEMENT LENDS CREDENCE TO PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT HE IS TO SUCCEED HERNANDEZ AS MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS WHEN THE PRESIDENT REORGANIZES HIS CABINET.

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5. SPANISH MONARCHS STOP OVER IN CARACAS. KING JUAN CARLOS AND QUEEN SOFIA ARRIVE TODAY, OCTOBER 15, ON THE WAY HOME FOR AN 11 HOUR PROTOCOLARY VISIT TO CARACAS FOLLOWING STATE VISITS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND COLOMBIA. THE ROYAL COUPLE WILL BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ AT THE AIRPORT AND A ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION IS PLANNED FOR THE KING AND PEREZ AT THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. THE VISITORS WILL ALSO SAY A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF SIMON BOLIVAR AND ATTEND VARIOUS OTHER PROTOCOLARY FUNCTIONS DURING THEIR BRIEF STAY.

6. CARACAS PRESS HIGHLIGHTS INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) BEING HELD IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA RECEIVED EXTRAORDINARY COVERAGE IN THE TWO LEADING CARACAS DAILIES,

EL NACIONAL AND EL UNIVERSAL. BOTH PAPERS SENT  
HIGH LEVEL EXECUTIVES TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING; IN  
SPEECHES BOTH EXECUTIVES SAID THAT, UNLIKE THE REST OF  
LATIN AMERICA, THERE IS "UNLIMITED FREEDOM OF THE  
PRESS" IN VENEZUELA. COVERAGE IN BOTH  
PAPERS HIGHLIGHTED THE IAPA REPORT ON THE STATUS OF  
PRESS FREEDOM IN LATIN AMERICA, WITH THE EL UNIVERSAL  
HEADLINE "FREEDOM OF THE PRESS HAS NEVER BEFORE  
BEEN SO THREATENED" TYPIFYING SLANT IN BOTH. BOTH  
PAPERS ARE DISCREETLY OPPOSED TO THE UNESCO PROPOSAL  
FOR GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF NEWS AND THE  
VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF  
A NEW LATIN AMERICAN NEWS SERVICE TO BE MANAGED BY  
GOVERNMENTS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES. IAPA HAS  
SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE UNESCO PROPOSALS MORE  
STRONGLY THAN ANY OTHER GROUP; STRONG SYMPATHY FOR  
IAPA BY EL NACIONAL AND EL UNIVERSAL IS NO SURPRISE.  
OAKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ullricre  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THIS WEEK IN VENEZUELA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, ASEC, ENRG, EAIR, ELAB, SCUL, SOPN, XL  
**To:** STATE BOGOTA  
**Type:** TE  
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